Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for optimizing output device utilization on a network including at least one output device, the method comprising:

      (a)   tracking <u>historical</u> utilization information for each output device;

      (b)   analyzing the <u>historical</u> utilization information for optimization opportunities; and,

      (c)   configuring the network to exploit the optimization opportunities.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein tracking <u>historical</u> utilization information includes:

      (a)   periodically retrieving the <u>historical</u> utilization information; and,

      (b)   archiving the retrieved <u>historical</u> utilization information.

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein tracking <u>historical</u> utilization information includes tracking <u>historical</u> utilization information selectively from network print clients, network print servers and network output devices.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein analyzing the <u>historical</u> utilization information includes searching selectively for underused and overused output devices.

5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein analyzing the <u>historical</u> utilization information for optimization opportunities includes applying rules to the <u>historical</u> utilization information.

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6. (currently amended) The method of claim 5 wherein applying rules to the historical utilization information includes selectively optimizing for lowest cost, highest quality, soonest output and output closest to an originating print client.

7. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein configuring the network includes selectively configuring network print clients, network print servers and network output devices.

8. (currently amended) A system for optimizing output device utilization on a network including at least one output device, the system comprising:

    (a)   a monitor configured to track historical utilization information for each output device;

    (b)   an inspector configured to analyze the historical utilization information for optimization opportunities; and,

    (c)   an administrator configured to configure the network to exploit the optimization opportunities.

9. (currently amended) The system of claim 8 wherein the monitor includes:

    (a)   a retriever configured to periodically retrieve the historical utilization information; and,

    (b)   a utilization log configured to archive the retrieved historical utilization information.

10. (currently amended) The system of claim 8 wherein the monitor is further configured to track historical utilization information selectively from network print clients, network print servers and network output devices.

11. (currently amended) The system of claim 8 wherein the inspector includes an investigator configured to search selectively for underused and

overused output devices.

12. (currently amended) The system of claim 8 wherein the inspector includes a manager configured to apply rules to the historical utilization information.

13. (currently amended) The system of claim 12 wherein the manager includes an optimizer configured to selectively optimize for lowest cost, highest quality, soonest output and output closest to an originating print client.

14. (original) The system of claim 8 wherein the administrator is further configured to selectively configure network print clients, network print servers and network output devices.

15. (currently amended) A program storage device readable by a computer, tangibly embodying a program, applet or instructions executable by the computer to perform method steps for optimizing output device utilization on a network including at least one output devices, the method steps comprising:

(a)   tracking historical utilization information for each output device;

(b)   analyzing the historical utilization information for optimization opportunities; and,

(c)   configuring the network to exploit the optimization opportunities.

16. (currently amended) The program storage device of claim 15 wherein the method step of tracking historical utilization information includes:

(a)   periodically retrieving the historical utilization information; and,

(b)   archiving the retrieved historical utilization information.

17. (currently amended) The program storage device of claim 15 wherein the method step of tracking <u>historical</u> utilization information includes tracking <u>historical</u> utilization information selectively from network print clients, network print servers and network output devices.

18. (currently amended) The program storage device of claim 15 wherein the method step of analyzing the <u>historical</u> utilization information includes searching selectively for underused and overused output devices.

19. (currently amended) The program storage device of claim 15 wherein the method step of analyzing the <u>historical</u> utilization information for optimization opportunities includes applying rules to the <u>historical</u> utilization information.

20. (original) The program storage device of claim 15 wherein the method step of configuring the network includes selectively configuring network print clients, network print servers and network output devices.

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